

about 1 mole% wherein gelation occurs with substantially no syneresis, said linear random copolymer in the form of a plurality of linear chains having a plurality of molecular weights greater than or equal to a minimum gelling molecular weight cutoff, and excluding a substantial amount of copolymer chains or polymer chains having molecular weights less than the minimum gelling molecular weight cutoff;

- b. an aqueous solvent mixed with said reversible gelling copolymer as a reversible gelling solution; and
- c. a therapeutic agent mixed with said reversible gelling solution as said therapeutic agent carrier.

31. (amended) A biodegradable thermally reversible graft copolymer, comprising:

- b. a biodegradable polymer; grafted with
- c. a side chain selected from the group consisting of homo-oligomers of [meth-]acrylamide derivatives and co-oligomers of [meth-]acrylamide derivatives copolymerized with hydrophilic comonomers
- d. said biodegradable thermally reversible graft copolymer forming a reversible gel.

#### SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 and (claims 2-12 by virtue of dependency) have been amended to recite the limitation that the hydrophilic comonomer in the linear random copolymer is less than about 10 mole% and greater than or equal to about 1 mole%, thus requiring the presence of the hydrophilic comonomer. Support for this amendment may be found at page 9, line 4. No new matter is added thereby. Claim 31 (and claims 32-36 by virtue of dependency) have been amended to recite that the side chains are selected from the group consisting of